

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 17 May 2004. Responsive to the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6, and 15-16 have now been amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. The amendments to these Claims remove certain informalities noted by the Examiner.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification for containing certain typographic and grammatic informalities. The required corrections have now been incorporated into the appropriate paragraphs of the Specification by this Amendment. The corrections are purely formal in nature and therefore introduce no new matter.

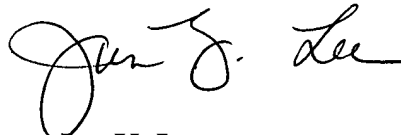
The Examiner also objected to the Drawings for failing to provide appropriate cross-sectional cut lines in Fig. 1 to be consistent with the descriptions of Figs. 3-6. Accordingly, a formally corrected version of Fig. 1 showing the appropriate sectional cut lines is submitted herewith.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicated, however, that Claims 1-16 would be allowable if such 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection were overcome.

In setting forth the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection, the Examiner specifically noted a number of typographic and grammatic informalities which have now been removed by this Amendment. It is believed, therefore, that the Examiner's formal concerns under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are now obviated, and that Claims 1-16 are now in allowable form.

Hence, it is believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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